

- Retail sales inch up 0.2% in May
- BC's crime rate down 7% in 2011
- Mortality rate in BC drops significantly between 2005 to 2009

The Economy

- Retail sales in the province were up slightly (+0.2%, *seasonally adjusted*) in May, mirroring a loss recorded in April (-0.2%). Canadian sales also inched up (+0.3%), partially reversing a downturn in the previous month (-0.6%). Declines in Manitoba (-0.6%), Quebec (-0.4%) and parts of Atlantic Canada were offset primarily by gains in Ontario (+0.2%) and the westernmost provinces. Saskatchewan (+2.0%), Alberta (+1.3%) and BC all posted increases.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Crime

- The police-reported crime rate in British Columbia declined in 2011, dropping 7.0%. This was among the most significant decreases across the country. Violent crime in BC was down 7.0%, with robbery (-10.0%) and major assault (-9.0%) rates falling. The rate of sexual assault (-7.0%) also saw a marked drop in 2011. At the other end of the scale, there were slightly higher rates for police-reported homicides (+4.0%) and attempted murders (+3.0%) committed in the province. Police also reported a 10.0% increase in the rate of sexual violations against children.
- Breaking and entering accounted for more than one in seven property crimes in 2011. Despite their prevalence, the break-in rate declined by 6.0%. Motor vehicle theft (-18.0%) in BC dropped even more substantially between 2010 and 2011. Among other types of crimes, rates for impaired driving (+15.0%) and cannabis-related offenses (+1.0%) were higher than in 2010. The number of impaired

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 85-002-X

driving offences reported by police can be influenced by a number of factors, including changes in legislation and enforcement practices.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 85-002-X

- Despite recent declines in several key categories of crime, British Columbia's crime rate (7,892 per 100,000 population) remained well above the national average (5,756 per 100,000 population) in 2011. While all three territories continued to post the highest crime rates in the country, among the provinces, British Columbia's crime rate was the third highest, after Saskatchewan (12,272) and Manitoba (8,991). Meanwhile, Ontario (4,197) and Quebec (4,459) boasted the lowest rates.

Of all Canadians charged with a criminal offence in 2011, more than three-quarters (79%) were male. Offences for which males had the highest involvement included sexual assault, while the highest representation of females was found in cases of abduction.

Data Source: SC, Cat. # 85-002-X.

Mortality and Cause of Death

- Between 2005 and 2009, the age-standardized mortality rate in British Columbia dropped notably from 526 to 480 per 100,000 population. In 2009, the ten leading causes of death in British Columbia accounted for 76% of all deaths. The three leading causes of death, cancer (29%), heart disease (21%) and stroke (7%), were together responsible for nearly three-fifths (57%) of all deaths in 2009. Compared to 2005, while a smaller share of the BC population died as a result of heart disease (-1 percentage point)

Did you know...

In 2011, Canada ranked number one in the world for the most social networking users per capita. *Source: eMarketer Digital Intelligence*

in 2009, a larger proportion succumbed to cancer (+1 percentage point).

There were some notable differences in the causes of death between men and women in 2009. Accidents were the fourth leading cause of death among men in BC, accounting for 6%. For women, on the other hand, accidents ranked fifth, explaining only 4% of female deaths. Stroke claimed a comparatively greater number of lives for women (8%) than men (6%).

Data Source: SC Catalogue no. 84-215-X

- **In 2009, there were 3,890 suicides in Canada, a rate of 11.5 per 100,000 population.** Males were three times more likely to die from suicide than females, while females were three to four times more likely to attempt it. It is estimated that for every completed suicide there are as many as 20 attempts. Males were most likely to commit suicide by hanging (46%) and females most often died by poisoning (42%). Males (20%) were also far more likely to use firearms than females (3%).

Suicide is a leading cause of death among young people, partly due to the fact that the likelihood of dying from natural/health causes increases with age. In 2009, among those aged 15 to 34, suicide was the second leading cause of death, preceded only by accidents (unintentional injuries). On the whole, married people are far less likely to commit suicide than are those who are single, divorced or widowed. It is estimated that 90% of people who commit suicide have a mental or addictive disorder.

Data Source: SC Catalogue no. 82-624-X

Women in Canada

- **In 2006, approximately 83% of Canadian women aged 15 and over lived either in a census family (as a married spouse, common-law partner, a lone parent or child), or in a household with other relatives.** Most women (57%) lived as part of a couple, with 47% sharing a home with their married spouse and 10% living with their common-law partner.

The percentage of women living as part of a couple was highest for those in their late thirties, when close to three-quarters (74%) lived with a spouse or partner. For men, on the other hand, living as part of a couple was most common among those aged 65 to 69 (81%). By comparison, about three-fifths of women in their late sixties (63%) were living with a spouse or common-law partner. By age 80 years and over, one-fifth (22%) of women were part of a couple as were two-thirds (66%) of men. Most women in couples were married (82%), while the remainder were in common-law unions (18%). However, the number of women in common-law unions has increased steadily over the last few decades. In the five years prior to 2006, the number of women in married couples rose 3.5%, while those in common-law unions grew at more than five times that pace (19%).

Data Source: SC Catalogue no. 89-503-X

Workplace Attitudes

- **In Canada, 36% of employees (polled by an international online survey) believe that the financial performance of their employer is currently under pressure and some (40%) would be prepared to forego part of their salary in order to secure their own job.** However, most Canadian workers (82%) agree that they work to live, rather than live to work and three out of ten would quit their job if they did not see room for personal development. Over half of workers (54%) say that having pleasant colleagues is more important than a good salary. In fact, 53% meet colleagues outside working hours and two thirds (66%) claim to have close friendships with some co-workers. Not surprisingly, close to half (44%) of Canadian employees state that they have more contact with their co-workers as a result of social media.

Data Source: Randstad Workmonitor, May, 2012

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		Apr 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC		4,606.5	1.0
Canada		34,755.6	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		2010	% change on one year ago
(BC - at market prices)			
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)		203,147	5.9
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)		167,140	3.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)		36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)		26,166	2.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)			% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May 2012		3,172	1.0
Merchandise Exports - May 2012		2,578	-5.8
Retail Sales - May 2012		5,159	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Jun 2012)			
BC		1.5	1.8
Vancouver		1.7	1.9
Victoria		1.4	1.7
Canada		1.5	2.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		Jun 2012	% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)			
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC		3.6	
Labour Force - BC		2,485.8	-0.7
Employed - BC		2,322.2	0.2
Unemployed - BC		163.6	-11.6
			May 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)		6.6	7.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)		7.2	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)		Jul 25/2012	Jul 27/2011
Prime Business Rate		3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year		3.10	3.50
- 5 year		5.24	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		Jul 25/2012	Jul 27/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$		1.0181	0.9465
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$		0.9850	1.0539
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		Jun 2012	% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)			
BC		850.70	1.3
Canada		863.37	3.5

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx>

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx>

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New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx>

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013

- Immigration; Citizenship; Place of birth; Language; Ethnic origin; Visible minorities; Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013

- Labour; Education; Place of work; Commuting to work; Mobility and migration; Language of work

August 14, 2013

- Income; Earnings; Housing; Shelter costs

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm>

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators